

London Mathematical Society Education Committee

The Society has as one of its aims ‘To support mathematical education in schools, colleges and universities, and encourage the public and young people to appreciate and engage with mathematics’. The Society’s Education Committee exists to turn this aim into a reality by advising and acting on behalf of Council on all matters concerning maths education. The Committee does this by informing and responding to the many government initiatives in maths education, supporting initiatives in promoting maths and maths education, and initiating and assisting projects that advance the teaching and learning of maths. All of this work keeps the Committee busy and its contribution to education is becoming increasingly important, as the pressures on the teaching of maths are getting greater across all levels.

A very large proportion of the work of the Committee is looking into the teaching of maths at school and college level. A complex and fast moving area, the Committee works with many other organisations to maintain and improve standards of maths teaching. This regularly includes advising and responding to developments in Functional Skills, GCSEs, Diplomas and A-levels. The Committee also supports teachers with their maths enrichment activities in schools by providing high quality lecturers to be made available through the Committee’s Holgate scheme.

The Committee promotes best practice for teaching maths in Higher Education. The Committee plays an active role in ensuring the training of new maths lecturers is appropriate for their subject and promotes maths as a special case for both teaching and assessment at Higher Education level. The Committee is involved in the Cecil King Foundation Travel Scholarship and assesses the SET Student of the Year maths category.

Public engagement work – with the Maths Promotion Unit – features highly in the Committee’s agenda and includes the Society’s Popular Lectures, the annual LMS-Gresham College lecture, and support for the British Science Association Maths Section. The Committee supports initiatives in maths education by awarding grants, normally up to £600, to support educational or maths promotional activities. Last year £3,219 was given in educational grants, and this year £3,040 has been awarded to date. Some of the activities funded through the education grant scheme have included: *iSquared* and *Plus+* magazines, Maths Masterclasses, Maths Trails and Maths Prizes in Schools.

Whilst the Committee has reacted to, and commented on, many government initiatives in education, it intends its future work to also present the Committee, and the Society, as having a more proactive lead in maths education. This has already begun, the Committee working with *more maths grads* to produce and distribute a booklet describing the nature and benefits of doing a maths degree and with the IMA to write a statement of support for all maths lecturers in Higher Education. The Committee intends to look for more opportunities to reach out and take hold of issues that effect maths and its teaching.

In conclusion, the Committee exists to show everyone why it is important that maths is taught effectively and well, and the Committee hopes that all members of the Society can support it to achieve this aim.